

# *Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania*

*Velma Redmond, President*

January 15, 2026

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to invite your organization to submit a nomination for a woman to be recognized as a 2026 Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania. Please do NOT notify the nominee that you are recommending her as this is a confidential process until nominees are finalized after review with the DDPA and the Governor.

In 1949, Governor James H. Duff began the tradition of designating living women from across the Commonwealth as Distinguished Daughters. To date, 15 Governors have named 574 women to this exclusive group.

In this 77<sup>th</sup> year of DDPA, we hope to continue to recognize the impressive talented, dedicated, and influential women from every part of the Commonwealth who have made significant, positive impacts in their communities, their Commonwealth and/or their country. Those selected to receive this honor are nominated annually by public-minded non-profit Pennsylvania-based organizations such as yours. Women recognized as Distinguished Daughters have had successful careers in areas such as:

*Architects Artists Athletes Business Executives Civic Leaders Educators Entrepreneurs  
Environmentalists Government Officials Historic Preservationists Judges Journalists Lawyers  
Librarians Nurses Philanthropists Physicians Poets Researchers Social Activists Writers*

Traditionally in autumn, the Governor and First Lady host an Annual Presentation Luncheon at the Governor's Residence where new Distinguished Daughters are recognized and receive their awards.

Please complete and submit a Nomination Form by accessing [www.distinguisheddaughtersofpa.org](http://www.distinguisheddaughtersofpa.org) and click on "NOMINATIONS". **Please note that you must submit the Nomination form electronically by March 15, 2026.** You should include a cover letter and up to two letters of support. This is a secure site and your nomination will remain confidential.

Enclosed is a description of "*Distinguished Daughters Organization and Nomination Process Rules.*" If you have any questions, please contact me, or the chairperson of your geographic region listed below, or our Executive Assistant, Meg Ream, at [m.ream@comcast.net](mailto:m.ream@comcast.net).

## **WESTERN REGION**

Debra Caplan (Co-Chair) and (412) 805-0255 <a href="mailto:debral.caplan@gmail.com">debral.caplan@gmail.com</a>	Mary Lou McLaughlin (Co-Chair) (412) 422-3603 <a href="mailto:mlou2118@icloud.com">mlou2118@icloud.com</a>
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## **CENTRAL REGION**

Shubhra Shetty (570) 498-4293 <a href="mailto:shubhrashetty@comcast.net">shubhrashetty@comcast.net</a>
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## **EASTERN REGION**

JoAnne Fischer (215) 316-1228 <a href="mailto:jafgsee@gmail.com">jafgsee@gmail.com</a>
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Sincerely,

*Velma Redmond*

Velma Redmond, President

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[www.distinguisheddaughtersofpa.org](http://www.distinguisheddaughtersofpa.org)

*Distinguished Daughters is a project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, fiscal sponsor. The official registration and financial information of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1.800.732.0999.*

*Registration does not imply endorsement.*